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Climb on!

Tristan Humphries of Carnarvon watches intently during the community climbing night, held at Camp Medeba on April 16. Climbing nights are held weekly at Medeba and open to individuals of all ages. /TIM YANO special to the Times



Forest Festival returns with Women of the Forest

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's official. The Forest Festival is back at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve for the 2023 summer season. "This festival is another way of diversifying what the Forest has to offer," said Barrie Martin, the manager of Yours Outdoors and one of the organizers for the event.

The Forest Festival closed its doors in 2019, ending the multi-year tradition of outdoor music at Haliburton Forest. The event was traditionally held at the Bone Like Amphitheatre, which was a large-scale outdoor venue, and faced its fair share of wear and tear over the years due to the elements.

In a media release that was put out in 2019, Haliburton Forest stated: "The Forest Festival needs a stunning facility like Bone Lake to continue, meaning that its future viability without such a facility is very limited. Unfortunately, rebuilding Bone Lake will require great expense and effort, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Without a venue, the Forest put a pin in the event in 2019, which then stayed put longer than anticipated with the pandemic hitting the following year.

Now, the Forest is ready to hit the ground running with a new vision, new music, and new venue for the festival. "It won't be the full-blown Forest Festival as we knew it," said Martin, "but we will be bringing it back, and we still want to continue offering this special event at the Forest."

While the Amphitheatre still out of com-

mission, Barrie noted that the festival will be moving to the Logging Museum, which is onsite at the Haliburton Forest Basecamp. The venue can seat up to 200 guests, and has been modified to accommodate special events, parties, concerts, and weddings in recent years. "It's a pretty interesting venue," said Martin, who shared that he was excited to see how each performer will fill up the space.

This year, the festival has leaned into a specific theme: Women of the Forest. The lineup features four musical groups composed of women, including Boreal, the Salt Cellars, Jane Bennett & Maqueque, and Jenie Thai. "We noticed that there was a lot of music happening in the community, and it often seems to be weighted towards male performers," said Martin. "We thought this would be a good way to celebrate women in music, and work with the tremendous pool of talented women musicians."

The first show kicks off on May 20, with one performer presenting each month over the duration of the four-month summer season. Viewers can purchase tickets to the individual shows, or a pass to all four of them.

This is also the first year that the festival has offered the opportunity for local businesses and organizations to get involved as presenting partners. "It's not a donation thing, it's more of an opportunity to engage community partners, and offer them additional presence," said Martin. He shared that some partners this year include Canoe FM, the Folk Society, and Highlands Buckslide Blues Society.

see NEW page 2

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Face off for fun

MPP Laurie Scott drops the puck for the OPP versus Archie Stouffer Elementary School Grades 7 and 8 students on April 14 in Minden. This tradition took a brief hiatus, but this is the first time it has been back since the COVID-19 pandemic. ASES won the game 11-8. /DAVID ZILSTRA staff



Tight deadline pushes award nomination to next year

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Township of Minden Hills is looking to give some kudos to a local senior citizen for their contributions to the community.

But not this year.

The deadline for nominations for the 2023 Ontario Senior of the Year Award is April 30. But that gives little time to do the award justice by way of submitting a carefully considered candidate.

"This award gives each municipality the opportunity to honour one of their outstanding local seniors for the contributions they've made to enrich the social, cultural, and

civic life of their community," Seniors and Accessibility Minister Raymond Cho wrote in a letter to council.

The award was discussed during council's regular meeting April 13.

Trisha McKibbin, the township's CAO, said a local name hasn't recently been put forward, but the township has nominated residents in the past.

Given the deadline is April 30, Councillor Tammy McKelvey suggested they shelve this year's nomination process with the view to next year's edition.

"Maybe this is something we need to look ahead to next year," she said. "That's just a really tight timeframe to even consider it. And I don't want to do this unless we do it

the right way."

Coun. Ivan Ingram supported waiting until next year to partake in the senior's award. The town also has a good neighbour award that hasn't been bestowed since before the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

Mayor Bob Carter suggested the issue be brought back to council chamber in March 2024.

"That gives us enough time to get something done and completed by the end of April," Carter said.

Coun. Pam Sayne said the good neighbour award is traditionally handed out at the same time as volunteer appreciation honours.

McKibbin said the appreciation event would previously happen in April to coincide

with Volunteer Week.

"But this year, because we haven't had the committees in place, we're going to be moving that to the fall," she said. "We still think it's important to recognize the volunteers."

The appreciation event will return to the spring next year, she said.

The nominee must be at least 65 years of age, a resident of Ontario, and a living person who has made their community a better place to live. The individual has to be nominated by a municipality.

You cannot nominate yourself, someone who is dead, elected federal, provincial, municipal representatives, or political appointees.

New vision, new music, new venue for Forest Fest

from page 1

Martin noted that with all the music happening in the county this summer, he hopes the Forest Festival is met with support and interest once again; particularly after the multi-year hiatus. "We are hoping that the legacy of the Forest Festival will help us sell

tickets."

For information on all performers and to purchase tickets, visit www.yoursoutdoors.ca or www.haliburtonforest.com. Further information will be available through the Yours Outdoors and Haliburton Forest social media pages over the spring and summer months.



Boreal is one of the bands who will be performing as a part of the 2023 Forest Festival - Women of the Forest. There will be a different musical performance each month between May until the end of August. /Photo submitted

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AH turns a new leaf on volunteerism

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

National Volunteer Week is celebrated across the country from April 16 - 22. This year, the theme for the week is "volunteering weaves us together"; a concept that was coined by Volunteer Canada.

Yet volunteering in the community was something that was put on the back-burner during the height of the pandemic. Liz Danielson, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, weighed in on the shift in volunteerism over recent years. "Our volunteer landscape has changed considerably, with a number of long-standing volunteers who have aged finally deciding to step back as a result," she told the *Times*. "As we have a new council in place, as well as a new recreation committee, we are working on ways to regroup and establish a new list of available volunteers."

Algonquin Highlands is known across the county as a destination for community events and experiences; the majority of which are made possible by volunteers. Some of these events include Stanhope Heritage Day, the Dorset Snowball Festival, Canada Day, and Christmas tree lightings and celebrations.

But Danielson said that with the height of the pandemic hopefully behind us, AH will dive into even more events. "On the morning of April 22nd, Earth Day volunteers along with others will be pitching in for the Dorset Community clean-up which I believe aligns with this year's 'Volunteering Weaves us Together' theme," she said. "This thoroughly demonstrates how volunteering improves the

overall wellness of our public spaces, brings us together and contributes to the collective wellbeing of the community as a whole."

Danielson made specific reference to the Dorset Lions, as well as a series of other volunteers, who continually provide food and beverages to complement each local event.

She noted that in the past, AH has hosted a formal volunteer appreciation event, but this was another event that fell by the wayside in light of the pandemic. "We are looking at ways to create a more meaningful event to recognize the efforts of our volunteers. More news on that to follow over the next several months," she said.

With this new landscape of volunteerism, Danielson urges others to get out and help out in their community. She said there are a variety of ways to get involved, and there may be something that interests everyone.

"Words cannot express the level of appreciation that Council has," Danielson stated. "Appreciation for those who have helped to organize events, large and small, who have helped to coach and delight our children, have demonstrated their skills and arts at a variety of events and offered us treats and refreshments time after time. Our heartfelt thanks to them all."



Keep track of what's happening in Minden on Instagram

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

April 27 – Regular Council Meeting
May 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 2023 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Thursday, April 20 2023, at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON. The purpose of the Special Meeting is to continue the 2023 Budget Deliberations

Volunteers make Minden a 'better place to live'

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's no secret that Minden Hills, and every other municipality in Haliburton County, has a population of aging individuals.

With over 40 percent of citizens in the age range of 60 or older, there is a high need for community support, care, and volunteerism. "Volunteers are a vital ingredient contributing to the quality of life in our community," said Mayor of Minden Hills, Bob Carter.

Carter also noted that perhaps a silver lining with the aging community, is the opportunity for the older population to get involved with volunteering. "With an older population, we have more people in need and, more competent, capable, retired people who have the time to contribute," he told the *Times*.

It has been noted time and time again that volunteering combats anxiety, stress, depression, and anger. It has also been proven that volunteering increases self-confidence, and provides participants with a sense of purpose and belonging.

Carter went on to share that not only are the volunteers benefitting from these services, the community as a whole succeeds as well. "There are many agencies, service clubs and municipal committees that can benefit from the experience and knowledge of our citizens," he said.

"Please, volunteer, help make this a better place to live," urged Carter.

For more information on how to volunteer with Minden municipal events and experiences, visit www.mindenhills.ca

Ready for Razz

On Sunday April 30th Razzamataz Kids' Shows! presents *Mary Jane Mosquito* by Carousel Players. The musical theatre show will feature singing, puppets, and a memorable story of a girl who leaves home to find her wings. The show takes place at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton at 2pm. Visit [www.razzamataz.ca](http://razzamataz.ca) for more information.

/Photo submitted



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The following Tender opportunities are available:

- CSD RFT 23-001 Cemetery Care and Maintenance
- CSD RFT 23-002 Boardwalk Restoration

Keep informed of current projects available to bid on by visiting our website at [https://mindenhills.ca/bid-opportunities](http://mindenhills.ca/bid-opportunities) for a list of available tender opportunities.

DAYTIME BURNING & FIREWORKS REMINDER

Reminder that you will need a burn permit for daytime burning, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM from April 1st to October 31st, and fireworks permit for the ignition of fireworks. A burn permit is issued for the season. Visit our website at mindenhills.ca for current fees. Contact the Fire Department for fireworks permit prior to the ignition of fireworks at 705-286-1202.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW – SCHEDULE A - CLASSES OF PERMITS & FEES - BUILDING

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed changes to Schedule A of the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT MARCH 17, 2023

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

IMPORTANT LANDFILL CARD INFORMATION

Don't recycle your current Landfill Card, blue in colour, valid from May 1, 2021-April 30, 2023, it has been extended to the end of December 2023.

Grass Lake condo development sent back to council

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

To badly rip off Shakespeare, it's once more into the fray, the continuation of the fight for Paul Wilson and Harburn Holdings.

Harburn Holdings' pitch to build 88 condominiums on Grass Lake at Peninsula Road and County Road 21 in Dysart et al. was discussed April 12 during another special meeting of Haliburton County council.

The development will include a commercial property and a lot to be donated to Places for People, an organization that provides affordable housing.

Because of recent changes, the application to amend the Official Plan had to be returned from the county level to Dysart's municipal council.

Dysart previously approved a land use amendment for the area. It was months ago brought to the upper tier level to ensure all provincial, county, and municipal planning policies were adhered to.

Paul Wilson, the proponent of the proposed condo development, has lived and worked in Haliburton County all his life and has developed many properties in the area. It's been almost two years since he started the wheels rolling on the current development.

This application is the start of a two-phase plan for the property. Although he may not be involved in the second phase or subsequent developments at the site, he will have control in who buys the property from him.

"And I won't be selling to anyone, including the lot that I propose to donate to Places for People, unless I approve their development proposal," Wilson said.

He said he's been quiet about the process

through all the jigs and reels, the meetings and special meetings, the consultants' reports and their required peer review reports.

He relied on his planning consultant, Tony Usher, to be his mouthpiece in the matter. Usher has maintained that the requested Official Plan amendment represents good planning and is in the public interest.

Wilson said he's refrained from writing letters to newspaper editors or op-ed columns.

"Nor have I responded publicly to the many verbal attacks directed at me personally," he said. "I was confident that the facts were on my side, so I chose to let them speak for themselves."

Overall, he's been quiet through the process.

Until now.

"Unfortunately, there's a lot of misinformation mixed in with the facts, so I feel compelled to clarify some things," he said.

Wilson said the Friends of Grass Lake, an environmental group against the development, alleged in February that Wilson did site alterations that included building a pond and dumping fill without proper approvals.

"That simply is not true," he said.

Wilson said he had gotten nods from required agencies that looked over his plans for the condo development. The proof of that favour, including letters and emails between Wilson, municipal, and provincial, and federal departments, have been freely available, he said.

"I should also add that all the site alteration work was completed by 2012 and really doesn't have anything to do with the current proposal," Wilson said.

Allegations that Wilson has dumped fill into Grass Lake under the cover of darkness is not true, either, he said.

It didn't happen, he said.

"That's just another example of misinformation that's continually been spread by some of the objectors," Wilson said. "The same is true about statements that I cut trees improperly."

In 2019, before Wilson committed to the development in Dysart, he said he polled Haliburton County and municipal planners about his plans and any options available to him.

He said he proposed to build either a medium density residential development or single-family dwellings. Professional feedback he received in the early days was that a medium residential development was preferred as "single family residential lots would be an underutilization of the property," he said.

He's commissioned experienced, qualified professionals to undertake necessary reports and studies over the many months since. He said his consultants have worked with municipal and county planning departments and peer review consultants to come up with a modified proposal that is now supported in its entirety by both planning departments.

That's in contrast to groups and individuals who are against a housing development so close to the Grass Lake watershed.

Regarding opposition to the development, Wilson said he hasn't seen any arguments from qualified professionals that casts doubt on the integrity of his development and its supporting information.

Councillor Murray Fearrey, the mayor of Dysart, asked about concerns a veterinarian near the proposed development had regarding water quality.

Raj Kehar, a planning lawyer from the firm WeirFoulds, spoke on behalf of Haliburton Veterinary Services during a February council meeting.

His client operates an animal hospital and clinic on property near the condo development on Peninsula Road. There are also rental properties in the vicinity.

The lawyer had told council his client has significant concerns about the impact the development will have on the quality and quantity of water available to the clinic and housing tenants.

Kehar had also asked council to defer by a minimum of three months its decision on the proposed development to allow more time for an agreement between his client and Wilson that addresses those well water concerns.

"There is a private well on our clients' property, and it was pump-tested in April 2020 by the developer in support of their development application," Kehar had said. "Immediately following that pump test, our client experienced sediment in their drinking water supply."

He said during the February meeting that the initial safe drinking water was turned to "brown sludge almost immediately." And those water quality issues continued, he said.

Kehar's client has also reached out to MTE Consulting, a professional independent hydrogeologist. Those consultants will peer review Harburn Holdings' water reports and peer review the peer review of reports prepared for Dysart.

"It's a very focused analysis," the lawyer said when he appeared in February. "And I think it's important that focused analysis be

given some time to occur and for a consultations and discussions to be had between our clients hydrogeologist and the developer's hydrogeologist."

At the April 12 meeting, Wilson said his hydrogeologist met with the veterinarian's hydrogeologist to hammer out a sequence of tests that need to be done to prove the well water's integrity will be maintained despite the development.

"And we've agreed on that," Wilson said. "I am confident that we will be signing an agreement here in the next week or two."

Stephen Stone, the county's planning director who previously recommended that the county allow the development, said it was suggested by staff that the application be modified to best assuage concern for the well water. He said the county has jurisdiction to either approve, modify and approve, or deny any application.

"In this regard, the discussion was centred around adding a particular special policy that would address concerns about water supply on the neighbouring lot," Stone said.

That added stipulation in the agreement would ensure that Harburn Holdings and any other entity that eventually takes control of the development would provide a safe water supply to neighbouring lots.

"There would be no adverse effects on water supplies offsite," he said.

Fearrey said the county should finally approve the amendment request and allow the development to proceed.

But Stone said the application has to go back to Dysart municipal council to discuss the newly added policy regarding water supplies adjacent to the development.

"You're saying that there's another step," said Warden Liz Daniels, mayor of Algonquin Highlands. "It has to go to Dysart and then come back to us?"

"Because it's a modification to the (Official Plan) amendment application, it's not considered a condition like you might have in a consent application," Stone said.

Daniels suggested council could give its approval subject to Dysart's approval of the modification. She said there's a dire need for housing in Haliburton County, and she feels compelled for that reason to approve the development.

"This keeps going on and on," she said. "I think at some point we have to ... fish or cut bait."

"We couldn't issue a decision on this yet," Stone said. "It would have to be after Dysart is in agreement with the modification."

Coun. Cecil Ryall, Highlands East's deputy mayor, questioned why the application would have to return to the county level if Dysart approves the modification after the county smiles upon it beforehand.

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said the county has no idea if Dysart will agree to the change. If the lower tier agrees, the application will return to the county for approval. If Dysart further modifies or denies the changed application, then that's a different issue, he said.

"You can't pre-approve what you expect somebody else is going to do," Carter said. "If Dysart agrees, it's a 30 second discussion at the next opportunity."

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Minden Hills gears up for spring cleaning

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A street sweeping contract will have to be amended to include a recently acquired subdivision in Minden Hills.

The municipality has been working closely with Haliburton County to streamline the procurement process. Combined purchasing will get the most competitive pricing.

Haliburton County issued on Feb. 23 a request for tenders for street sweeping within the county. Minden Hills provided a list of roads to be cleaned and requested that these roads be included in the tender document.

The last day for tender submissions was March 9, 2023.

Councillor Tammy McKelvey noticed during council's regular meeting April 13 that a subdivision recently folded into the municipal inventory of roads hadn't been included in the tender request.

"I can add that," said Mike Timmins, the township's public works director. "It really shouldn't be much of a change."

After completing the evaluation process, Haliburton County awarded the contract to a numbered company: 535276 Ontario (Hughson Fencing and Guardrail).

The initial contract term is for two years, with the possibility to extend for two more one-year terms, at the township's discretion.

Work is set to commence the first week of May this year and in 2024 and should be completed by the end of May of both years, weather permitting.

The township will pay \$175 per hour in the first year. For 100 hours, the tab will come to \$17,500. In 2024, the hourly rate will jump to \$185 and \$18,500 for a 100-hour contract.

McKelvey said the tender documents indicates the contract will only be awarded after a legal review.

"I would just question why we have to lawyer this," she said. "That costs money. Is the county having it lawyered?"

It's a needless expenditure to duplicate a legal review.

"The format of the agreement that the county is using is different than our typical agreement," McKibbin said. "There was different content and wording than ours. We wanted to ensure that we have everything covered and felt a legal review was wise in this case."

Coun. Bob Sisson wanted to make sure the contract expense was budgeted.

"We have changed our operation budget this year, so it's not broken down," Timmins said. "I don't have it in front of me, but it is near and similar to last year's."

Timmins also asked that council give the OK to award another couple contracts that adhered to the county's tender process.

A two-year contract to complete roadside mowing was awarded to Casey Cox. The work will cost \$8,002.80 in the first year and \$6,923 in the second year.

A one-year contract for pavement markings was awarded to Trillium at a cost of \$10,206, plus taxes. The contract's total

cost is \$250,951 but the county picks up about 98 per cent of the tab.

"I find savings where I can," Timmins quipped.

At the upper tier level, Carter said there were five or six bids submitted for the pavement painting work.

"They were all significantly higher than what the county had budgeted for that," the mayor said. "Some were almost double what they (the county) had anticipated."

Sisson asked if there's been any thought given to suspending roadside mowing.

"I don't think I'm in a position to stop some of our seasonal work at this point," Timmins said. "But, certainly, if there's a

discussion there to be had, I'm happy to have it.

"I think there's value to it: Cutting back (foliage) for sight lines, safety issues. It helps to a certain extent with mosquitos and nesting and stuff like that. So I see value there."

Carter said there is indeed safety value in roadside mowing. Motorists can see better at a T-intersection when the grass is cut back. Even some driveways are made safer by roadside mowing.

"I agree with you on that," Sisson said. "I just wondered why some townships are doing it and some are not."

Weapons complaint investigated at high school

On April 4, at 1:22 p.m. members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a weapons complaint at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Officers quickly attended the location and initiated an investigation. As a precaution a shelter in place order was issued by the school. Officers did not locate a weapon at the school. There were no injuries reported

to police as a result of this incident. The investigation into this incident is continuing.

Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting anyone with information about this incident or any other unlawful activity to call 1-888-310-1122 or 705 286-1431. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit a secure web-tip at <https://www.khcrimestoppers.com/>, where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward.



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To our volunteers

IN THIS life, it's often about the numbers. The wages. The price points. The hours. We're always trying to get ahead. To keep up. To stay afloat.

In school, we are taught to work to find a career that will pay the biggest dollars. A lifestyle that will lend itself to all work and no play.

Yes, in school, we are required to complete 40 hours of volunteer work in the community in order to graduate; which in theory seems like it will add to the overall well-being of the students and the town, but in reality, just adds another number to a task that should be selfless.

We are in the midst of National Volunteer Week right now. A few days of the year where individuals and organizations take a few moments to recognize the heartbeat of their communities.

It's been a fun week of both reading and writing stories about the characters from our corner of the world; the folks who show up, day in and day out, not because they're chasing another number, but because they want to be there.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any vibrant community.

In this neck of the woods, they bring music. They bring theatre. They bring art. They bring acts of service. They bring boxes of food. They bring gardens. They bring Pride. They bring events. They bring support for animals and children. They bring light. They bring colour. They bring heart. They bring life.

They are our community.

And not because they have to be, but because they want to be. Because they want to be a part of something bigger than themselves.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

They want to see our community thrive. They want to make a difference.

And this is a world where making a positive impact on someone else's life, isn't always at the forefront on the grand scale of priorities.

Many of us are incentivized by the concept of exchange. If I do this for you, what do I get out of it?

I was inspired this week to write about Patti Fleury. Patti was a former writer for the *Minden Times*, and contributed regular columns called *Around the Town*, which was her take on the life and times of Kinmount.

Patti passed away at the end of March, and left a hole in the hearts of her family, friends, and community. But she had a legacy. She won citizen of the year in Kinmount based solely on her volunteer work. She was involved with everything from craft days for kids to artisan markets; she saw an opportunity to add colour to the world, and she ran with it.

Because sometimes, we do have the choice to make the world brighter. We have the option to give back, to offer hope, to do something for others.

Because volunteering isn't about the numbers. It's not about the wages. The price points. The hours.

It's about showing up, and giving back, in any way possible. It's about being a part of something bigger than yourself, not because you have to, but because you want to.

So, to all our volunteers who make our corner of the world a better and brighter place, thank you. We wouldn't be who we are without you.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



"Do you want the bad news or the very bad news first?"

Turkey flu

IN CASE you haven't guessed, I'm not a medical doctor. Nor do I play one on TV. But I do know a thing or two about the outdoors and epidemics. I've lived through both.

That's why I feel comfortable in telling you that we will be facing an outdoors-related epidemic starting Tuesday, April 25. But don't worry, it will be short-lived. In fact, I suspect it will taper off by the end of the week. Though it will likely linger until the end of May.

You are probably wondering why you haven't heard about this in any of the news media. This is primarily because this epidemic is flying under the radar of our local, provincial, federal, and international health agencies.

But it shouldn't. It happens every year about this time.

It's a subtle thing. And no one has ever died of it. But come Monday night or even Tuesday morning, employers all over this province – as well as from other jurisdictions – will start getting calls from employees who are suddenly not feeling well and deciding that the most noble course of action would be to call in sick – and remain off work for a day or three at most, until this highly contagious fever has passed.

The illness I am referring to is mysterious, but here's what I do know about it. First off, it happens primarily in places where the wild turkey hunting season starts on April 25. Also, it seems to only affect wild turkey hunters, so it is reasonable to assume that it spreads by contact (even phone or texting contact) between them.

These facts are the reason that pioneering researchers such as me call it WTHS or Wild Turkey Hunting Syndrome.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Interestingly enough, the bird has nothing to do with the malady.

In fact, generally speaking, the only cure seems to come from taking a photo of the patient with a wild turkey. If this doesn't happen, the illness can be recurring – but only until May 31, which interestingly enough, also marks the end of wild turkey season.

Since contact with the bird seems to be the cure, the question is how does the illness take hold?

There are many theories. So far, I have examined the commonalities of employees who have called in sick with the disease.

The findings, thus far, are startling.

First, not a single one of the afflicted employees had available vacation time or, if they did, permission to use it. Every one of them had at least one wild turkey tag in their wallet too. Also, each one of them had practiced turkey calling with mouth calls, box calls,

friction calls or by voice. And since many of the calls they use were developed in the southern US, there is a possibility that this is ground zero.

Another commonality is that almost all of the afflicted tend to wear camouflage frequently, so more research is needed into the green, black, brown and grey dyes used.

I don't mean to alarm anyone, but this epidemic is almost a certainty. But, as I said, the good thing is this will pass.

In the meantime, I'll be out there studying this from April 25 to May 31. Probably by myself, because frankly, I'm feeling a little queasy right now and shouldn't be near anyone.

You don't want something like this to spread.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

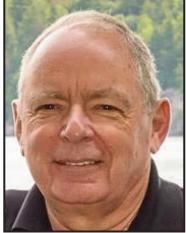
Yes, it's our business now

THREE ARE times when we must risk the consequences and tell a friend that he or she is doing wrong. Canada has reached one of those times.

It's time for Justin Trudeau, the prime minister who falls in love with every microphone and camera he meets, to tell U.S. President Joe Biden to get aggressive and take real action to end his country's gun insanity.

Mind your own business, Biden and other Americans likely will say.

Unfortunately, it has become our business. The U.S. gun obsession is pouring hundreds of illegal guns into our country where they are being used in crimes. Crimes in which Canadians are dying.



JIM POLING SR.

From *Shaman's Rock*

States, he said.

Just a week or so ago police busted a gun smuggling ring and seized 173 firearms, many of them handguns. Most were being smuggled from the United States.

Three of the firearms possessed by the man who shot and killed 22 Nova Scotians in 2020 were smuggled from Maine in the back of his pickup truck.

Guns from the U.S. often are smuggled by trucks or boats, but innovative ways of transport also are being used. Last year police in southern Ontario recovered from a tree a drone carrying 11 smuggled handguns.

Statista Research reports that in 2021 the U.S. gun industry manufactured 13.8 million new firearms. Some were sold to other countries, some were smuggled into countries like Canada and the rest stayed in the U.S. where roughly 40,000 people a year are killed with guns.

Already this year, which is not yet four months old, there have been 13,000 gun deaths in the U.S., almost 10,000 injuries and 162 mass shootings. Those are not up-to-date figures because people are shot and wounded or killed almost every hour in the U.S.

American politicians have been unwilling or unable to legislate strict controls on firearms, including semi-automatic assault style rifles that shoot bullets capable of piercing body armour. They won't act because too many of them fear losing their seats, although a majority of Americans say they favour stricter gun controls.

Fear is what drives America's obsession with guns. They feared "Indian attacks" during the almost 400 years it took to colonize a continent owned and occupied by Indigenous peoples. They feared uprisings and attacks between opposing forces during and after the 1860s civil war.

Today Americans fear being victims of street violence, so they arm themselves with more guns. Almost one-half of Americans own at least one firearm, and not because they enjoy hunting or target shooting.

Many Americans own and carry a handgun because they feel they need to protect themselves against fellow Americans.

Many do not have enough firearms knowledge and training to handle anything more than a cap gun. Several hundred a year accidentally shoot themselves.

Take the reported case of the Georgia guy who shot himself in the leg while holstering his pistol as he dressed for an outing. The outing? He was going for an hour or two of relaxation at his favourite cigar lounge.

Why anyone would need a SIG Sauer P320 pistol on his belt to go to a cigar lounge is beyond comprehension.

Suggesting Trudeau complain to Biden about lack of action on American gun insanity is probably not a great idea. Even if followed it would not achieve much.

Some Americans are suggesting that one way to get action is to boycott school attendance. Stop sending kids to school until lawmakers pass effective gun control laws.

Boycotts? Now there's an idea. Maybe boycotting American products, visits and other contact is something for Canadians to consider as a way of protesting how U.S. gun production is killing Canadians.

letters to the editor

Goodbye, Bill

To the Editor,

I first met Bill Obee on my first week of work as a journalist for this publication a decade and a half ago. At that time, Bill was a municipal councillor for Ward 1 in Minden Hills. It became quickly apparent he was many other things as well.

A retired engineer who'd worked for the County of Haliburton as well as the Ontario Good Roads Association, he was seemingly a member of every community organization ... or at least an astounding number of them.

Bill served on the board of the Haliburton County Development Corporation, the board for the Staenworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation, the Minden Hills roads advisory committee and Haliburton County's medical professional recruitment committee. He volunteered at the local community kitchen and following the horrendous flooding of the Gull River in 2013, was a member of the Minden Hills disaster relief committee. There are undoubtedly numerous others.

Bill was also a core member of the Rotary

Club of Minden, a past president and Paul Harris Fellow. I remember going to his house on Twelve Mile Lake to interview him about a trip he was taking with Rotary to Cambodia, where he was going to deliver bicycles to children and help build a school.

This week is National Volunteer Week and volunteerism was central to Bill's being. What's the motto of Rotary International? It's service above self. Service above self. Bill was the walking embodiment of that notion; of the idea that serving others is truly the highest calling any of us can aspire to.

Bill Obee was a remarkable man, as affable as he was intelligent, with a belly laugh that could shake a room and who gave countless hours of himself for the betterment of the community of Haliburton County.

Sincere condolences to his family and many friends.

Chad Ingram
Minden Hills

'Aging Together as Community'

To the Editor,

In response to Emily Stonehouse's March 22nd article about the "Aging Together as Community" Committee. I would like to emphasize how important this issue is here in Haliburton County where we have such a large proportion of seniors. This group has had several introductory meetings, some "zoom" meetings and two combined in-person/zoom meetings this winter.

A big issue is how to let people know what the group is about, what the issues are and to emphasize that there are many different ways to "age in place" - and a variety of ideas of what the "place" can be. Co-living, clustered tiny homes, aging in one's own home-with help, long term care, and lots of home care are all options. We

need to encourage more people to volunteer in the many ways that there are to help seniors and we need to get the message out to the community. The *Times* has been very supportive and seems like a natural place to help spread the word.

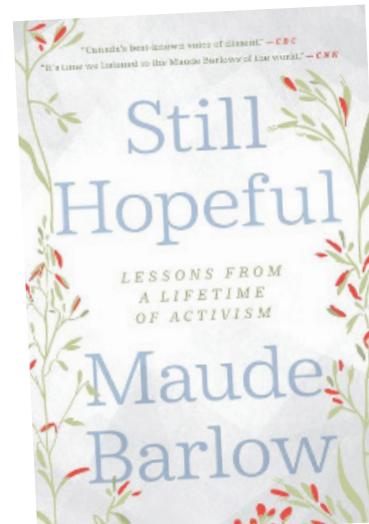
One of the organizers has emphasized that much help is needed from community organizations with a similar focus and from "junior seniors" who would understand the needs of senior seniors. As a senior, it is very important to know where to get help, when help is needed.

Thanks to The *Times* for their support in getting this message to the community.

Sue Reid
Minden Hills

More letters to the Editor on page 8

HCPL's Book of the Week



Maude Barlow is no stranger to the challenges that come with fighting for a better world. After decades spent in the social justice movement, with this book Barlow brings a timely message that change does happen, and it is important not to give in to despair. With a focus on building communities and working alongside an ever-growing collection of like-minded people, *Still Hopeful* invites us to work towards change-making that combines engagement with detachment, so that we care deeply but are still able to do what needs to be done. This is book for those who are feeling hopeless or are looking to be inspired to make a difference.

Still Hopeful: Lessons from a Lifetime of Activism by Maude Barlow is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Spring BIG RED Event

Our lowest prices of the season
Special 8 page flyer in addition to regular flyer

Thursday April 20th to Thursday April 27th

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Minden Legion Branch 636**Lunch - Monday to Friday**

Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.

Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.

Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.

Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.

Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Small Glories

When: Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Legion

This multi award winning duo brings to the stage folk-pop melody and instrumentation - songs of love, loss, and environment.

Contact: Don Gage 705 286-5085, info@haliburtonfolk.com, www.haliburtonfolk.com

Environment Haliburton:**De-Mystifying the Heat Pump**

When: Saturday, Apr. 22 at 10 a.m.

Where: Haliburton United Church

In celebration of Earth Day, join us for an in-person presentation by Haliburton resident Gord Jones, retired Heat, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Tech and instructor at Mohawk College. For more information contact Terry Moore, tmoore7031@gmail.com, 705-306-9254.

Haliburton Highlands Paddlers' Open House

When: Sunday April 23, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Legion

Do you enjoy paddling? Connecting with new friends? Wondered about paddling a Dragon Boat? You will learn all about our club and get excited about joining us on the water this season. Everyone is welcome. Visit haliburtonhighlandspaddlers.ca for more information.

letters to the editor

A wolf in sheep's clothing

To the Editor,

The provincial government has created the Integrated Community Health Services Centres Act. It is also described as "Your Health Act".

What could be better than an act for me ("your health") proclaiming "community" and "integration"?

Beware of fine sounding words. In fact, this Act will accelerate the dis-integration of public health services. You only need to read the definition in the Act:

"Integrated community health services centre" means, subject to any

exemptions set out in the regulations, "a health facility, including a community surgical and diagnostic centre, in which one or more members of the public receive services for

or in respect of which facility costs are charged

or paid ..."

Cutting out the legalese, it means a health facility will be able to charge us for the treatment it provides. Our public health care system is severely strained, no doubt about it.

But it needs to be repaired, not destroyed. This Act is designed to remove resources from the public system and move them into privately-owned "health services centres" (hospitals), and to attract professionals away from the public system. Is that what you want?

This Act is a wolf in sheep's clothing. It allows extra billing. Those who can afford it will pay. Those who cannot, can wait. Too bad. Two-tier health care. Tommy Douglas must be rolling over in his grave.

Carolynn Coburn
West Guilford

Heat versus ice?

THE QUESTION of using heat or ice for pain relief has long been debated. Which one should you use after sustaining an injury? What about something that has been bothering you for a long time? How long should it be applied? The guidelines on these procedures can be confusing and it is often forgotten that by altering the temperature of the tissue, you are inducing a biological response. Both can reduce pain, but which one should you use?

To understand which therapy is best, we need to go beneath the skin and look at the body's natural response to injury. When you sprain your ankle, the injured tissues spark an inflammatory response which results in redness, heat and swelling - causing you pain and discomfort. Inflammation is the body's natural response to an injury or infection and can cause pain and disability if not controlled. Would you use heat or ice for a sprained ankle? Ice is the answer here. The immediate application of ice will cut down on long term swelling and potentially lessen recovery time.

The application of ice is called Cryotherapy. This can be achieved using ice packs or ice baths, or the popular cold plunge therapy. Cold induces a response in the tissue called vasoconstriction; narrowing of the blood vessels. Vasoconstriction decreases blood flow and decreases overall tissue metabolism. It also numbs the area to help you feel less pain. In general, think of ice as your first stop for an acute injury, something that happens suddenly.

Applying heat is called Thermotherapy.

Heat does the opposite of ice, inducing a response called Vasodilation or opening of the blood vessels. The increased blood flow and metabolic activity brings more oxygen and nutrients to the tissue. Heating the superficial tissues can be achieved using hot packs, wax baths, towels, saunas, heat wraps, steam rooms etc. A good example of when to use heat would be having a hot shower to relax tight and stiff muscles in the upper back and neck. The heat will promote vasodilation which relaxes the muscles causing an analgesic effect to help you break the tension cycle. This isn't a replacement for good posture, proper ergonomics at the workplace or balanced muscles but it can help to provide short term relief.

Ice for no more than 20 minutes at a time with at least a 30 minute rest in between sessions. Icing for longer than 20 minutes causes a counterproductive reaction called reactive vasodilation. Make sure to use a barrier between the ice and the skin to avoid burning or frostbite. Heat is also best used in shorter durations, about 15-20 minutes although it does depend on the injury. Be cautious using heat if you have any sort of numbness, heart condition, heat allergies or open wounds.

Ultimately when it comes to heat or cold, it is generally OK to go with what feels the best for you. The above are common guidelines to follow. If you have any concurrent health conditions or are unsure of where to start please consult with your physician, chiropractor or physiotherapist prior to starting heat or cold therapy.



KASSIE BRADLEY

Wellness Corner with Kassie

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Volunteer Week



Public Libraries are people powered

by CHRIS STEPHENSON
Special to the Times

Staff at public libraries put special effort into acknowledging and celebrating community members who help us throughout the year. Not just because it's the right thing to do, but because without the support of our patrons and residents, what we're able to offer would be limited. We depend a great deal on enthusiastic volunteers, placement students, and key fundraising and advocate organizations such as the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library. Library partnerships are one of the keys to our success. We often provide the space, the technology, and promotional help, and then we'll team up with residents who bring expertise, or a visiting author, or a service provider's organization. And that's when the magic starts to happen!

So in addition to Ontario Public Library Week, which happens in October, one of the other occasions we get excited about at Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) is Volunteer Week. Over the past year we've had some special guests at many of our branches. Children's book authors such as Dana Church and Phyllis Bordo, Jennifer from Walk About Farms, and Joanne and Sunny (an author talk which included a puppy!) came to enrich our storytime experiences inside and outside the library.

Ruth Treloar is helping us get a French Conversation Circle going and we're

thrilled about this. Similarly, Sharon and the Canadian Parents for French not only offered to donate funds to help us donate our French collection, but they teamed up to run our first-ever French Storytime. In the adult technology help department, we've been super fortunate to have Mona Lam-Deslippe coming this year to share her expertise about devices, software, and staying safe online.

For genealogy assistance, there's a wonderful ongoing program that occurs at the Minden and Dysart branches called Afternoons with Ancestors. This program happens consistently on alternating Tuesdays and it's run by Adele Espina, who gets rave reviews for her powerful research – not just according to our patrons, but also our staff. It's worth noting that Adele is also a new HCPL Board member. This is also an important volunteer role filled by a mix of nine local residents and County Councillors each year. As well, an exciting annual tradition are summer storytime visits from the hugely popular Auntie Plum, our local drag queen.

There is also patron-led programming such as Cardiff Reads and the Cardiff Crafters, run by Nancy. And the Gooderham Book Club, which is led by Sally. And as you may note in another article this month, we're congratulating the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library for their impressive 20 years of service this year! Founded in 2003, the Friends group of directors and volunteers have been actively fundraising for library

furnishings and supporting programs and services for over two decades. This group is also the reason why we have an incredible Book Club Set collection to offer all area book clubs across Haliburton County. This month we're helping the Friends develop a special page on our library website to feature what they do to support HCPL all year round.

One issue with creating a list of volunteers

supporting our County library system, is that we're in danger of forgetting to mention a person or a group. But please know, we're extremely grateful for the support we receive from people in all four of the municipalities we serve. If you meet a library volunteer during Volunteer Week, please give them a high five from myself and the library staff.

Thanks to Canoe FM volunteers

In September, Canoe FM will celebrate 20 years of providing volunteer based not for profit community radio to Haliburton County. Community Radio is an essential piece of the Canadian landscape, and our many volunteers provide listeners with a diverse listening experience.

Canoe FM is a listener supported radio station. Our volunteers could be your friends, neighbours, family, or people standing with you in the grocery line. The many volunteers involved with Canoe FM take pleasure and pride in being able to bring you 20 years of Community Radio right here in Haliburton County.

Our volunteers are not your regular, mainstream radio hosts. They share their personalities and sometimes make little faux pas. Our volunteers are real.

Our volunteers create an eclectic mix of programming, a little something for ev-

eryone. Canoe volunteers showcase local and Canadian music and artists, they love promoting events and cultural activities. Ensuring that our listeners are connected and informed is a number one priority.

At Canoe, we are so thankful for all the outstanding volunteers that give so much of their time and energy to their volunteer positions. Our volunteers excel in the services that they provide. This station would not be the respected station it is, if it weren't for the volunteers.

Canoe FM is your voice – your community – your station, and we tip our hat to our Canoe FM volunteers ... thank you. Here's to another 20 years! It's an honour and a privilege to work with these volunteers.

Submitted by Canoe FM station manager
Roxanne Casey

Having a Community Radio Station in Haliburton County is only possible because of Volunteers.

*Thanks for showing up and keeping our community informed and connected
Each of you are truly amazing -
Thank you!*

"Your Voice - Your Community - Your Station"

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www.canoefm.com

*Celebrating
20 Years!*
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VOLUNTEER SERVICES

**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER WEEK**
APRIL 16 - 22, 2023

**VOLUNTEER
BÉNÉVOLES
CANADA**



Volunteer Week



A big thank you from Abbey Gardens

Did you know that Abbey Gardens welcomes over 50,000 visitors each year? And that number doesn't even include the hundreds of people who enjoy our public trails, 18-hole disc golf course, attend a special event or wedding, visit the pizza truck, attend a cancer retreat at Abbey Retreat Centre, or enjoy a beer on the patio at Haliburton Highlands Brewing. The reality is that with so many people visiting our property, we need a lot of help - and we are so fortunate to have the support of over one hundred volunteers each year.

These volunteers support Abbey Gardens in a variety of ways, including baking hundreds of cookies at Christmas time, working with the ponies in the paddock, helping at registration and parking during special events, assisting with construction projects like our new duck coop or trail head, and/or planting shrubs, trees, seeds, bulbs, and everything in between (seriously, there's so much planting!).

These volunteers are integral to the success of Abbey Gardens, and they allow us to continue to develop new programs, deliver quality summer camps, offer property tours, attend Farmers Markets, host special events, and - most importantly - serve our community. This year in particular we are so excited to announce the launch of our SCENE (Special Community Events Network and Entertainers) Team - a special network dedicated to supporting the community festivals and events we host at Abbey Gardens. This program will establish a team of volunteers who will be front line during our special events, and in return they get priority complimentary access to two events of their choosing throughout the year. It's just one of the ways we can say thank you to the incredible group of volunteers who help us deliver our mission to re-green a former gravel pit into a community destination.

This National Volunteer Week we would like to take a moment to highlight this amazing group of individuals and say



Music at the Gardens is just one of the many events Abbey Gardens hosts throughout the year that relies on volunteers. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

thank you for making Abbey Gardens such an amazing place to visit in the Haliburton Highlands.

Submitted by Abbey Gardens

Volunteers are threads of connection

This year, National Volunteer Week is recognized from April 16th to April 22nd. During this designated week, we celebrate and thank the millions of volunteers across Canada who contribute to their communities in countless ways.

In Ontario more than 87,000 volunteer hours were given to supporting Children's Aid families in our communities. A total of 96,529 drives were provided by volunteer drivers, which amounted to 6,058,282 kilometers. This distance is equivalent to nearly 2,000 drives across Canada...or 151 trips around the earth. We are grateful for your commitment and support to our families.

The theme this year is "Volunteering Weaves Us Together". This reveals the importance of volunteering to the strength and vibrancy of our communities through the interconnected actions we take to support one another. These diverse forms of sharing our time, talent and energy strengthen the fabric of our community.

On behalf of the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society, we would like to say thank you to all our amazing volunteer drivers and baby cuddlers.

At Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society, we believe that every volunteer's experience, perspective and abilities add to our collective resilience. Volunteering reinforces our ability to grow, thrive and create change within our community.

As Arthur Ashe said "Volunteer! Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society serves the communities of Peterborough City and County, City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton. Forty individuals donated their time as either Board or Committee Members or volunteer drivers in fiscal 2022/23. Executive Director, Jennifer McLauchlan added, "volunteers are an essential part of our team who freely give their gift of time, compassion and empathy to the children and youth they are supporting. Volunteers help to create connections in the community for children and youth that can truly make a difference."

Call to find out how you can make a difference by volunteering at the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society at 1-800-661-2843 extension 1260 today.

Submitted

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 129 HALIBURTON

Legion 

BRANCH 129 HALIBURTON

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Rotaract
Haliburton Highlands 

Service. Leadership. Action.

Who Are We?
The Haliburton Highlands Rotaract club brings together volunteers ages 18 and older to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through local service projects.

See What It's About!
Attending a meeting can be a great way to meet members, learn about current initiatives, and decide whether Rotaract is a good fit. Use email or social media listed below to reach out and get information about upcoming meetings.

haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com  @RotaractHaliburtonHighlands  @rotaract_haliburton

 govern cook

THANK YOU!

 WE  *Our Volunteers*

repair fundraise teach

Thank you for creating resilience ... reducing poverty ... encouraging connection



Volunteer Week



Celebrating national volunteer week in Minden

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is April 16 to 22. This week is set aside each year to recognize and thank volunteers around the Township of Minden Hills and Canada for the time and energy they contribute to causes that benefit our communities. NVW is also an opportunity to promote the benefits of volunteering to individuals and society.

The National Volunteer Week theme for 2023, Volunteering Weaves us Together, re-

veals the importance of volunteering to the strength and vibrancy of our communities through the interconnected actions we take to support one another. These diverse forms of sharing our time, talent and energy strengthen the fabric of our community.

Through volunteering we experience our interconnectedness, making our lives more meaningful. Getting involved in various ways, we find friendship, develop trust, and link our

relationships. Threading these connections, we come to belong as we contribute towards the same goals.

During National Volunteer Week 2023, the Township of Minden Hills would like to say thank you and celebrate the hundreds of hours our volunteers have dedicated to their local community. Your kindness, understanding and generosity weave our community together and make us stronger.

For more information on the many volunteer opportunities available in the Township of Minden Hills, please go to our website www.mindenhills.ca or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca.

*Submitted by the
Township of Minden Hills*

Volunteers play significant role at SIRCH Community Services

Volunteers are at the heart of everything SIRCH does. They cook, teach, govern, repair, fundraise, merchandise and so much more. It's safe to say, SIRCH Community Services would not be able to touch so many lives in Haliburton County and beyond if it wasn't for the volunteers that we have.

April marks National Volunteer Month in Canada, and what better time to extend our appreciation and gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers who have come through the doors at SIRCH. Since this organization was launched 33 years ago, our programs and initiatives have evolved and adapted. However one thing has remained constant in the more than three decades that we have been in operation, the commitment our volunteers have to making a positive change in their community.

SIRCH has a variety of volunteer opportunities, from those who serve on our board of directors, to those that help with programs, and those who support our events and initiatives. Whatever the role or position, every volunteer

matters and makes a difference.

Whether you find yourself volunteering at the Thrift Warehouse, which diverts thousands of cubic feet of reusable items from the local landfills, or at Repair Café, an event that creates connection and passes on skills, at our not-for-profit Bistro & Bakery, which operates on a pay it forward model, or at Community Kitchen which feeds thousands, you are making an impact.

Earlier this month, CanadaHelps released its annual Giving Report for 2023, which outlines some of the challenges charities are currently facing. According to the report, 58 per cent of small charities in Canada are fully run by volunteers. While SIRCH has a mix of paid staff and volunteers, many of its critical programs, such as Community Kitchen, rely heavily on volunteers. And as inflation costs soar, so do the demand on our programs and services. The report states, "to thrive, a charitable sector needs a caring and engaged society." We at SIRCH Community Services couldn't agree

more.

Our deepest gratitude to all who have given SIRCH their time, expertise and passion. You are truly making your community a healthier place to live and we are grateful you have done that by believing in the work we are doing. Thank you for creating resilience, reducing poverty and encouraging connection.

If you would like to be a part of our volunteer family, please don't hesitate to reach out. We would love to hear from you! Give us a call at 705-457-1742 or visit us at 49 Maple Ave. in Haliburton.

*Submitted by
SIRCH Community Services*

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VOLUNTEER WEEK**
APRIL 16 - 22, 2023
#NVW2023 #WEAVINGUSTOGETHER

**Volunteering
Weaves Us
Together**

National Volunteer Week is set aside each year to recognize and thank volunteers across Canada for the time and energy they contribute to causes that benefit their community.

This year's theme of 'Volunteering Weaves Us Together' reveals the importance of volunteering. As each individual thread makes weaving stronger, every volunteer's unique experience, perspective and abilities strengthen the fabric of our community.

The Township of Minden Hills would like to say **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who through their kindness, generosity and commitment, weave our lives together!



For more information on volunteering
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www.mindenhills.ca



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Around the Town: celebrating the life of Patti Fleury

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A guiding light, a welcoming smile, and one of a kind - those are just a few of the terms used to describe Patti Fleury.

Many readers would recognize Fleury's name from her regular contributions to the *Minden Times*, which she called *Around the Town*, and highlighted the happenings in her corner of the world: Kinmount. In the columns, she would feature the Legion events, upcoming yard sales, euchre scores, and celebrate all the colour of the place she called home. She had a way of writing that made everyone feel like they were part of something special.

And that's just who she was. "She was an overarching warmth, a kindness, she was a person that made anyone feel like they were the only one in the room," shared Fleury's granddaughter, Emma Fleury Harvey. "She was always the last to speak, and the first to listen."

Patti Fleury met her husband and best friend, Bruce Fleury, while working at a children's camp for children with special needs. Her and Bruce had dreams of one day starting their own camp. What started as a dream quickly became a reality, and the couple launched the Connemara Camp and Center at their family farm. It was the first camp to integrate children who were neurodivergent and neurotypical, as well as



Patti Fleury wrote *Around the Town* for the *Minden Times*, and was a bright light in the community of Kinmount. /Photo submitted

children with physical impairments. "At the time, it was something that was quite progressive," said Emma. "They lived a life of helping others." Patti and Bruce went on to run the camp during their summers for 15 years, impacting countless childrens' lives.

Patti worked in medicine for the majority of her life, after studying Physio and Occupational Therapy at the University of Toronto. During her studies, she was frustrated that the program was not observed as a degree program, so she worked her way up to secure a position on the Governing Council for the university, and was the first

student to ever join the board. She then managed to petition to make the program a degree, and then went back to complete the requisite requirements to obtain her degree.

"That was probably one of the things she was most proud of," said Emma. "By making that program a degree program, she would have changed thousands of peoples lives."

Most of Patti's professional career was spent at the Scarborough General Hospital, where she worked in a variety of departments, including prenatal, rehabilitative, and palliative.

Emma shared that Patti would make all her patients feel seen, welcomed, and loved. "There was one person in palliative care who had lost his hands, but he loved painting" Emma said, "and my grandma figured out a way to set him up with everything he needed to paint with his feet. She just wanted to bring people joy."

Sometimes, Emma recalled that her grandmother would wear a Mickey Mouse pin, with little cartoon hands waving. One year, Emma asked why Patti was wearing the pin, to which she replied warmly, "it's my reminder to smile, Emma."

Emma was gifted the pin several Christmases ago from her grandmother, and told the *Times* that she still wears it whenever she needs a smile.

Upon retirement, Patti and Bruce moved up to Kinmount to permanently live at their farm.

It was here that they continually became involved with the goings-on of the place that held their heart. They were founding members of the Kinmount Pioneer Society, the Kinmount United Church, and founders of the Kinmount Artisans Market.

In 2012, Patti was celebrated as Kinmount's Citizen of the Year. David Anderson of the Kinmount and District Lions Club, introduced Patti by saying the follow:

"This year's candidate helped found and has been part of the development and operation of what is known as the Kinmount Artisans Marketplace. She participates in organizing the children's craft day at March break, Kinmount and Area Harvest Homecoming Studio Tour and the annual Kinmount Artisans Christmas Bazaar. And she also promotes all our Kinmount events and activities through her column *Around the Town* in the *Minden Times*."

At the event, Patti joked that she had

been called to the Kinmount Fairgrounds thinking she was needed to fix the weaving wheel at the event, as the winner of the award is kept a secret until the big reveal.

Upon the win, Patti said "At the Academy Awards, you always have to thank your husband, right?" before going on to thank Bruce as her "personal chauffeur and editorial assistant."

On March 23, the bright light of Patti Fleury was dimmed, as she passed away at the age of 86. The community, her friends, and her family are mourning the loss of the zestful spirit. "Close doesn't even begin to describe what me and my grandma were," said Emma. "We were best friends."

Now grown with her own child, Emma has taken to celebrating the life and legacy of her grandparents in the best way she knows how: through writing. "Since I was ten, I've been really interested in family history," she told the *Times*, "so instead of a birthday gift each year, I would ask for an heirloom."

It was through these heirlooms that Emma was inspired to write the stories of her four grandparents, and share them in a children's book. The story of Patti was one she was just diving into during the time of her death. "It had been sitting on my chest for a long time," she said, "so finally, I wrote my grandma's pages on the day that she died."

Emma believes that she will continue the legacy of her grandmother through her actions. "She always said 'be kind'; that was her motto, and she would always say to me, 'Emma, just keep in mind that everyone is doing their best.' She was the most selfless person I've ever known."

Patti Fleury connected thousands through this selfless life. From seeing the best in everyone who crossed her path, to forging a path so others could have new opportunities, to celebrating the everyday life and times in Kinmount, Ontario, she made the world a brighter place.

Patti always concluded *Around the Town* in the *Minden Times* with three simple words. Three words that promised more, that offered hope, that made readers feel like they were a part of something bigger.

On behalf of the *Minden Times* writers and readers, who are now following on the path of kindness, acceptance, and joy that Patti Fleury paved for our corner of the world, this seems like an apt time to share those three words: "until next time..."

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	4			3		6		
8	3			2	6		7	5
	7							
4		9			6			
6				3		2		
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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 13

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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Thanks to Canadian Heritage for their support

New live concert venue coming to Haliburton

We are thrilled to announce the Music Room at The Castle, a new 150-seat intimate concert venue, located inside Castle Antiques & Café. Get ready for a summer full of exciting live events and an incredible lineup of concerts that will blow your mind!

Stay tuned for more information and be the first to know about our upcoming events. We're bringing the best live music to Haliburton, and we can't wait to share it with you all!

Follow us for updates and get ready to experience the magic of live music like never before. Here we come!!

Opening May 6, 2023, with a live performance by award-winning singer-songwriter Marshall Dane, Haliburton's new 150-seat Music Room at The Castle will be the place to go this summer and all year long for live music.

Located inside Castle Antiques & Café in the heart of downtown Haliburton, The Music Room is a unique and intimate state-of-the-art venue designed to deliver an immersive and unforgettable live music experience.

"We are thrilled to be opening The Music Room at the Castle. Our goal is to provide a vibrant and dynamic venue for musicians and music lovers to come together and share the love of music in a great sounding and intimate setting. With the support of our community, we look forward to helping

ing to build a successful and long-lasting music scene here in Haliburton."

To kick it all off, The Music Room at the Castle will present an unforgettable evening of live music, featuring the dynamic and soulful songs of award-winning singer-songwriter Marshall Dane, whose new single 'Grateful' is currently topping the download and radio charts. Check out his music at www.marshall dane.com and on all streaming platforms.

Opening Night tickets are \$32.00 and are on sale now. Don't miss this opportunity to experience live music at its best!

Tickets are available at Castle Antiques & Café - 223 Highland St. Haliburton 705-457-115 or The Hair Lounge 50 York St. Haliburton 705-455-7745.

Submitted by Music Room at The Castle

A road trip for the Opera Club

Join us for an Opera Club trip to see the Canadian Opera Company's performance of *Tosca*. Trip includes tickets, and a meal.* We will work together with the reserved group to organize transportation. Limited tickets are still available, reach out to Opera Club Director, Corina Mansfield to secure your spot!

Date: Sunday, May 7

Time: Performance 2 p.m. - Departure in AM TBD

Where: Four Seasons Performing Arts Center, Toronto
*No cost to participants.

Reach out to Opera Club Director, Corina Mansfield, at info@HighlandsOperaStudio.com or 705-854-0628 or, visit the Facebook page: Youth and Young Adult Opera Club

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2	9	6	7	4	5	3	1	8
7	5	4	1	8	3	2	6	9
8	3	1	9	2	6	4	7	5
5	7	3	2	6	1	9	8	4
4	2	9	8	5	7	6	3	1
6	1	8	4	3	9	5	2	7
1	6	2	5	9	8	7	4	3
9	4	7	3	1	2	8	5	6
3	8	5	6	7	4	1	9	2

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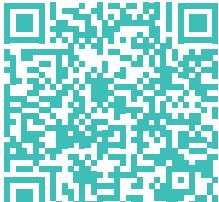


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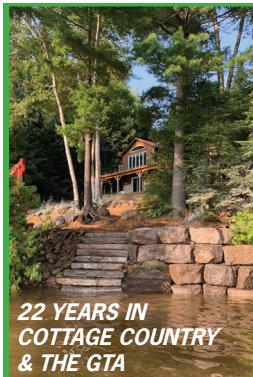
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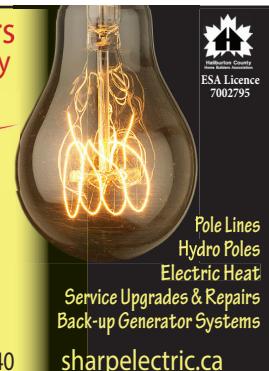
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HHHS IS LOOKING FOR NEW DIRECTORS

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Corporation has openings for new directors – local residents and cottage owners who want to help build on the outstanding health services currently provided in the county. HHHS operates facilities in Minden and Haliburton providing hospital (emergency services, acute care, and palliative), long-term care, and community services.

HHHS is privileged to have an outstanding team of health professionals and modern facilities. Challenges persist in attracting new staff, meeting the needs of our aging population, and anticipating/planning for the future. The HHHS Board strives to bring together a group of individuals with knowledge of the community.

HHHS is particularly interested in hearing from people with knowledge, experience, and/or interest in any of the following areas: planning and delivery of quality and accessible health services

- financial
- clinical
- legal
- information technology
- public relations/communications
- human resources
- participating on a community board

If you feel you have the time, energy, and commitment to be a Director, then we would like to hear from you by May 5, 2023. The new Directors will be appointed at the annual general meeting in June. In addition to new director positions, HHHS is accepting applications for community members on its Finance and Quality Committees.

For further information and an application, please access our website at: www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Or contact: Michel Henry
Executive Assistant to President & CEO and Board
Phone (705) 457-2527
mhenry@hhhs.ca

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Minden Times
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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Haliburton County Council
is seeking members of the public for a

Citizen Appointment to the Land Division Committee

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. The County's Land Division Committee makes decisions on Applications for Consent which include new lot creation, easements, rights-of-way, lot additions, and other application types under Section 53 of the Planning Act.

Applicants for this position must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County
- Have interest or experience in land use planning

You can find the detailed posting along with application instructions on our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

If you require assistance with the application process please contact Sarah Hume, Human Resources Manager at 705-286-1333 x 224 or at shume@haliburtoncounty.ca

The application process will close on April 28, 2023 at 1:00pm.

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640 IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory
**PEARL
KERNOHAN**
(August 14, 1931 ~ April 20, 2022)

To our Loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother

It broke our hearts to lose you

You did not go alone

For part of us went with you

The day God called you home

You left us beautiful memories

Your love is still our guide

And though we cannot see you

You are always by our side.

Deeply loved and forever in our hearts,

Love Ivan Kernohan & Family



Minden Times

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- Kids play room
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- Affordable cost options

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650 OBITUARIES**In Loving Memory of
William Elmer (Bill) Obee**

passed away on Saturday, April 15, 2023, one day short of his 80th birthday, with his children by his side.

Those who knew Bill recognized he was a great Dad, Granddad, friend, Rotarian, and lover of all things. He lived on Twelve Mile Lake in Carnarvon, after moving from Minden, Unionville, Brantford, and Port Credit to name a few, but there was nowhere on Earth that Bill loved more than his lakefront home, where he and Penny spent many happy years.

Bill married Penny in 1968, after a whirlwind courtship lasting just a few months. They were so proud of their three children, Janna (Kevin), Hunter (Alex), and Meaghan (Robert), as well as 7 wonderful grandchildren, Zachary, Quinn, Aidan, Riley, Kyla, Logan, and Sophie.

Bill's accomplishments were many, but the things he was most proud of were being a University of Waterloo Engineering graduate, nearly 50 years as a member of Rotary International, including years involved with the Youth Exchange Program, Group Study exchanges, and numerous Paul Harris Fellows, volunteer board member at HCDC, Staunton, Minden Community Food Center, and multiple years on Minden Town Council.

Bill and Penny loved to travel and shared many adventures with their family and friends. Highlights include Mexico, Jamaica, the Caribbean, and Florida with family, Rotary excursions to Cambodia, Aruba, Jamaica, and South Africa, biking in Croatia, Italy, and France, plus fun with friends in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the Caribbean, and throughout our beautiful Canada.

Friends are invited to join the family to celebrate Bill's life at the Red Umbrella Inn, 1075 Red Umbrella Road, Minden on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 1pm. We'll exchange stories and refreshments from 1-3pm, with a few words from family and close friends 3-4pm. Donations may be made to the Penny and Bill Obee Memorial Scholarship at hhsscholarship@gmail.com, or the Minden Community Food Centre and also can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

540 COMING EVENTS

**HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
WOMEN'S GOLF LEAGUE**
is hosting its ICEBREAKER TEE
SOCIAL NIGHT at the Haliburton
Curling Club on Friday May 5 7:00
pm. Come enjoy and register All level
players welcome For more info visit
the website www.hhwgl.ca or
call Lynne Brady
705-887-4230 or 705-340-0625

570 NOTICES

Private notice: let it be known an
unrebutted ecclesiastical agreement
with witnesses has been reached
between minister Surinder-Kaur and
the private man David: Lametti acting
as AG of Canada. The full text of the
scriptural agreement may be seen at
<http://www.allcreatorsgifts.blogspot.com>

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*It is with the heaviest of hearts we announce the peaceful passing of
Marjorie Winnifred Hazel Spinks (Hinton)
in her 101 year on April 12, 2023*

Loving wife of predeceased husband William Henry Spinks. Win is the loving mother of Stephen Spinks (predeceased) Susan Nauss (predeceased son-in-law Graham Nauss), Russell Spinks (Kathy Spinks) and her "other daughter" Cathy Casserley and her family. Loving Grandma of Louanna Nauss (Rob Henery), Devon Nauss, Robyn Spinks and Kelly Spinks (Howard Davie). Great Grandma "GGma" to Jonathon Bryant, Emma Henery, Kalea, Jeydon Nauss and Jaxon Nauss.

Win is the last of her 6 siblings to pass on from the Hinton family. This most wonderful, positive, fun and outgoing spirited lady will be dearly and forever missed by all her family, friends and all that knew her. She was always up for company, helping out, a good chat, gardening, baking her most wonderful pies, loved dancing, arts and crafts, and a generally great love of travelling Ontario discovering new things with her friends and family.

Our family would like to take this time to extend our warmest and most grateful appreciation to the wonderful staff and care givers at the Highland Woods Nursing Home whom have taken the best of care of our Win over the last 6 years she was with them, and making her comfortable during her final days. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Our hearts go out to all that will be missing her! She will be very sadly missed! Dance away Win (Grandma, GGma), until we see you again.

Resting at the Bernardo Funeral home at 855 Albion Road, viewing from 4 to 8pm Friday, April 21, 2023.

Funeral Service for close Family and friends at the Caledon East Public Cemetery at Airport Road in Caledon at 11am Saturday, April 22, 2023.





Jim Alder*
705-935-1112

Properties Wanted!

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Adele Barry
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Horseshoe Lake Rd \$674,900

- Spacious 4 Beds 2 Baths country home
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- 5 min to public access-Horseshoe Lake





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Percy Lake \$675,000

- 2.19 acre parcel with 155 ft frontage
- Southwest exposure
- Underground Hydro & Driveway installed
- Year Round Road





Mark Denny*
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NEW PRICE Haliburton Condominium \$669,000

- 1236 Sq Ft, 3rd Flr, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, A/C
- Large Balcony w/ Entertainment Space/Views
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- Strike while the market is hot!





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- Main floor primary bedroom & ensuite
- Exclusive use of clubhouse & waterfront





Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

NEW PRICE Beech Lake \$699,000

- Open concept 3-season cottage w/ 4 beds
- Oversized 1 car-garage & updated bunkie
- Clean, hard-packed sand beach & big lake views
- Amazing afternoon sun & sunsets!





Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

NEW LISTING West Lake \$529,900

- 253ft of shoreline, Hard-packed sand beach
- Nicely level property, gentle slope to the lake
- Sunny Southeast exposure & great privacy
- Approximately 15 mins to Haliburton Village





Ashley McKeigue
705-854-1833

Oblong Lake \$599,000

- 0.9-acre parcel with north-western exposure
- Over 700 feet of clean, sand & rock frontage
- Driveway installed & building site partially cleared
- Part of a 2-lake chain with premium Haliburton Lake





Brandon Nimigon**
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NEW PRICE Loop Road \$575,000

- 5 Beds / 3 Bath Home on 10+ Acres!
- Many Recent Upgrades, Attached Garage
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- Public Beach & Amenities Just Minutes Away





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McLeod St \$550,000

- Completely renovated
- Large in town lot
- Double garage + workshop





Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Haliburton Lake \$1,199,900

- 3 Beds / 2 Baths, 1300+ sqft
- Southeastern Exposure, 100' of Frtg
- Large Bunkie w/ Infrared Sauna
- 20 Mins to Haliburton, 10 Mins to Fort Irwin





Melanie Vigrass*
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Bethel Road \$549,000

- Incredible 194-acre parcel just mins from Minden
- Long gated driveway to private, cleared site
- Large frontage on picturesque Walker's Pond
- Trails throughout to explore, teaming with wildlife





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Canning Lake \$3,500,000

- Executive Waterfront Home or Cottage
- 400' waterfront with over 2 acres
- Double Garage, Guest Cottage, Wet slip Boathouse
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